Permitting journey by pass-holders in Lucknow Mail

1027. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no train between 0620 hours and 0737 hours from Ghaziabad to New Delhi and the Ghaziabad commuters had requested the Railway Board to expedite justice, by permitting them to travel in the 4229 up Lucknow Mail which leaves Ghaziabad at 0635 hours for New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a second class pass-holders (commuters) are allowed to travel in the same train from Hapur to New Delhi; and

(c) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in favour of Ghaziabad commuters, especially to decongest Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) 4229 Lucknow Mail departs Ghaziabad at 0635 hours and 2904 Golden Temple Mail departs Ghaziabad at 0642 hours for New Delhi.

(b) No, Sir. Season ticket holders are not allowed to travel between Hapur and New Delhi by Lucknow Mail.

(c) Does not arise.

Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority

1028 SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to set up an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures taken for tariff rebalancing and reforms in the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report, there is a recommendation for setting up of a Indian Rail Regulatory Authority, as a machinery for tariff setting. The Committee's Report is under examination by a Committee of senior Railway officers.

(d) Reform is an ongoing process. In the recent budget an effort has been made to rationalize both the freight and fares to reduce the existing anomalies in the tariff structure.

Gauge conversion of Palampur-Samkhiyali section

1029. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a joint venture project for Gauge conversion of Palampur-Samkhiyali section;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of participation by the parties; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is a sanctioned and on going project. The delay is due to non-availability of adequate funds. Discussions are underway with Government of Gujarat and others to undertake a joint venture project for gauge conversion of Palampur-Samakhiyali section.